

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 1 and 4-18 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter in original claims 2, 3, and a feature relating to a second detector, disclosed in the specification at, for example, paragraph 7. Claim 19 has been cancelled. The Applicant has carefully and thoughtfully considered the Office Action and the comments therein. For the reasons given below, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action on pages 2-3, claims 1-3, 6, and 18 are alleged to be anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,060,508 to Wong (hereinafter Wong '508). Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

Amended claim 1 includes, *inter alia*, "a second detector to detect light that has been tapped off partway along the channel." It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Wong '508 for the following reason.

Wong '508 does not teach "a second detector to detect light that has been tapped off partway along the channel," as recited in amended claim 1. Instead, as pointed out in the Office Action, Wong '508 teaches the use of a single detector. Wong '508, col. 3 lines 27-24.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over any reasonable reading of Wong '508.

Claims 6 and 18 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

On pages 3-5, the Office Action rejects claims 4, 5, and 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong '508 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,747,808 to Wong (hereinafter Wong'808). Claims 4, 5, and 7-17 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable over Wong '508 and Wong '808 for the following reason.

Amended claim 1 includes, *inter alia*, "a second detector to detect light that has been tapped off partway along the channel." It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Wong '508 in view of Wong '808 for the following reason.

Wong'808 fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wong '508, as discussed above in connection with amended claim 1. Wong '808 does not teach "a second detector to detect light that has been tapped off partway along the channel," as recited in amended claim 1. Instead, Wong '808 teaches a gas sensor comprised of a bottom substrate and a top substrate. Wong '808, col. 5, lines 1-6. A single bottom substrate may have a plurality of detectors. Wong '808, col. 9, lines 46-53 and Figure 9. The gas sensor, which may contain a plurality of detectors, is arranged at one end of an extended sample chamber. Wong '808, col. 14, lines 10-13 and Figures 16 and 17. Wong '808, therefore, does not teach "a second detector to detect light that has been tapped off partway along the channel," as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over any reasonable combination of Wong '508 and Wong '808 as neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches "a second detector to detect light that has been tapped off partway along the channel," as recited in amended claim 1.

Claims 4, 5, and 7-17 are dependent from claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

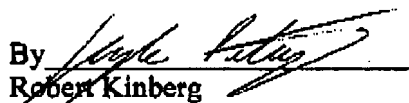
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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